

Accountability in Arizona Charter Schools

Academic Accountability:

- Must demonstrate alignment to Arizona's Academic Standards
- Must participate in state mandated annual nationally norm-referenced testing program (Currently the Stanford-9)
- Must participate in the Arizona criterion-referenced testing program (AIMS-Arizona instrument to measure standards) in grades 3,5,8 and12. This also includes a "high stakes" graduation test in order to receive a diploma from the State of Arizona.
- Charter Schools sponsored by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS) must account annually for any decline in test scores.
- Schools sponsored by ASBCS must state clear performance objectives including percentage of mastery and provide curriculum samples in their charter application before a charter can be granted.
- Participate in the state academic productivity study.

Financial Accountability:

- Every charter school must submit a detailed business plan as part of their charter application.
- Every public school in the state of Arizona (whether they are for-profit or non-profit) must conduct an annual external audit, both programmatic and financial, with a certified CPA.
- Must annually demonstrate compliance with the uniform system of financial record keeping (USFR or USFRCS for charter schools), or must demonstrate compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) if they have received an allowed exception from the USFR.
- Must submit annual financial reports to the superintendent of public instruction regarding funding by program for inclusion in the superintendent's annual report.

General Accountability:

- All charter schools must comply with all state, local and federal laws regarding health, safety and civil rights. This includes, but not limited to, compliance with city and county ordinances in relation to the quality and location of their facilities.
- All charter schools must comply with all provisions of individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA), and well as compliance with any restrictions or regulations related to acceptance of federal funding for start-up or programmatic functions.
- Each charter school must submit annual demographic and ethnicity data for the superintendent of public instruction's annual report, as well as periodic enrollment counts throughout the year by which their apportionments are adjusted. Each school must also submit annual school profile data by school site for Arizona's school report cards. This includes such information as number of incidences of violence, qualifications of teachers, amount of money spent per classroom and other school data relating to safety, achievement and accountability.